

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

May 16, 2018 6:30-8:30PM

**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201
Admin East Building, 6th Floor**

<p>MRC Members Present Mike Ehlebracht Bob Hillmann Traci Sanderson Tom Doerge Laura Gurley Deborah Hopkins Susan Tarpley Franchesca Perez Craig Wollam</p> <p>Absent Cathy Stanley (excused) Paul Clampitt (excused) Sarah Brown (excused)</p>	<p>Staff, Presenters, and Others Kathleen Pozarycki, MRC Lead Staff Elisa Dawson, Snohomish County MRC Planner</p> <p>Dan Van Hees, Northwest Straits Commission Kari Quaas, Snohomish Conservation District Lincoln Loehr, Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <p>The MRC approved the April MRC Meeting Summary.</p>	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 7th Our Toxic Orca Event at Blue Water Distilling. Everett, WA ● Snohomish Basin Implementation Committee Meeting May 31st ● Forage Fish Training June 1st at Padilla Bay ● UW ESRP monitoring June 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 ● Crabber Education Training at WSU June 21st ● June 29 MRC Presentation on 2018-2019 grant at NWSC meeting in Island County 	

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting with a quorum at 6:30pm.

Mike introduced himself and called for self-introduction of meeting participants.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tom Doerge made a motion to approve the April 18, 2017 MRC Meeting Summary. Bob Hillmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Net Ecosystem Improvement

Kathleen introduced Dan Van Hees. Dan Van Hees is the new Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) Coordinator with Northwest Straits Commission (Commission). The NEI Coordinator is a temporary position for the Commission which will go through November. The primary goal of the NEI project is to quantify overall ecological impacts of MRC volunteer restoration efforts. Dan explained that this is a broad goal, with the ultimate hope that he will help the Commission have a better understanding of the ecological impacts of many, if not all, MRC restoration and monitoring projects. To start this project, Dan is visiting the seven MRCs to present a little bit about NEI, and also have a discussion on how he could help the MRCs use NEI on their projects.

The Commission's mission is to "Protect and restore marine waters, species and habitats of the Northwest Straits to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use through a citizen based approach." Dan states that the Commission believes it is important to focus on a way to evaluate ecosystem health in order to understand if we are meeting the mission. The NEI model that has been developed by the Commission is $NEI = \text{change in function} \times \text{area} \times \text{probability}$. Any NEI assessment requires an action, such as restoration effort, outreach and education, or policy change. NEI is a quantitative ecological assessment, the first step in this process is evaluating various characteristics of restoration and monitoring projects. These characteristics include: data quality, pre- and post-restoration monitoring, geographic scope, volunteer involvement, continuity among other MRC efforts.

Dan is in the initial phases of seeing what the different MRCs are doing in the Salish Sea, and which projects may be good for NEI. He is looking for volunteer-driven that may also be good candidates for inclusion in the NEI framework. Dan opened up the discussion for ideas with the hope to find one or two Snohomish MRC projects that would work well in the NEI framework.

Elisa started the discussion by asking Dan what other suitable projects he has found from other MRCs are so far. Dan responded that one project he is pursuing with NEI is the no-anchor eelgrass zone in Jefferson County. Another project Dan is working on is with the San Juan MRC. The San Juan MRC is working on protections for Orca Whales from tourism and recreational boating. The actions that the San Juan MRC are considering will be based in NEI framework. Kathleen suggested that one project which could work for NEI would be the derelict crab pot removal study in Port Gardner Bay. The MRC has supported derelict gear removals in an area of Port Gardner that is a common fishing area for commercial, Tribal, and recreational crabbing. Gear removals involve locating derelict gear with side scan sonar and using trained divers to safely remove the gear. Removals have taken place in 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, and 2011-2018. Paired with this, the MRC has participated in Crabber Education for many years. The MRC has been on the docks during crabber opening weekend for the past several years handing out materials on best management practices for securing and keeping crab pots so they do not become lost. Dan and the MRC thought this would be a good candidate for the NEI project. Dan will be gone during the month of June, but he will work with the MRC to bring this project into the NEI framework. The next step will be to create conceptual model that show the connections between recovery/protection efforts and various ecosystem services.

MRC Grant Discussion

Kathleen stated that the 2018-2019 MRC Grant Application is due May 22, and the goal of this agenda item is to review the draft grant application, and finalize edits needed for completion. For the 2018-2019 grant, the MRC has decided to focus on creating public service announcements (PSA) in Snohomish County Theaters. The grant does not define the theme of the PSAs, instead that will be decided as part of the grant. Franchesca Perez has researched National CineMedia (NCM), which is the primary creator of movie theater commercials and PSAs. Franchesca has received an estimate of

costs for 15-60 second PSAs to be shown in Snohomish County. Kathleen passed around copies of the draft grant for the MRC to review.

Elisa asked Franchesca if she knew of examples of other PSAs NCM has created. Franchesca said that she had not seen examples, but will ask NCM if they are able to provide us some. Elisa asked Franchesca if she knew whether or not the MRC would be able to use the PSA in venues other than NCM partner theaters if NCM creates the PSA. Essentially, will the MRC own the PSA NCM creates? Franchesca responded that she was not sure, and she would follow up with NCM on both of these questions and get back to the MRC.

Kathleen reported that the draft grant still needed a few edits along with creating a deliverables table. Franchesca offered to help create the deliverables table. Kathleen asked for any edits to the grant to be completed by Monday, May 21st.

Kathleen reminded the MRC of the requirements of grant projects. The project must:

- Be able to be accomplished in the time period available (end date September 30, 2019) and within the proposed budget (unless other funding is referenced in application).
- Include an evaluation plan that provides information to the MRC to determine whether the project achieved desired outcomes.
- Not be included in other grant proposals submitted or planned to be submitted through another entity (including through the Northwest Straits Foundation or to the Foundation's Opportunity Fund).
- Identify any sub-awards anticipated. Sub-award agreements with the Northwest Straits Foundation are not allowable.
- If a continuing project, clearly identify how this work is different from previous years, or describe why continuation of the same work is important.
- Be reviewed and approved at a meeting of the full MRC.

The MRC agreed that this proposal met the requirements of the grant. The MRC approved the proposal knowing that a few additions will be made before the Grant is submitted by May 22nd. Next, the MRC will need to present their proposal to the Northwest Straits Commission at the June 29th meeting in Island County.

Current MRC Grant

Kathleen reminded the MRC that the objective of the current MRC grant is to reach at least 300 youth through the school system. The MRC is working with Florian Graner to adapt Discover the Olympic Coast for Snohomish County. The new film will be called Discover the Salish Sea, and will include images specific to Snohomish County. Team members created a list of K-5 teachers in Snohomish County schools, and sent an email to the list seeking interest in the free film and curriculum. Kathleen reported that the email was sent to over 110 teachers, and she has already received close to 60 responses. The MRC is happy to see that there is so much interest from Snohomish County schools.

Florian is working to complete the Discover the Salish Sea film. The deadline for completion is May 25th. DVDs will be created and sent out to teachers with the curriculum by the end of May. Staff will follow up with a survey to see approximately how many students were able to view the film.

Forage Fish Data Analysis Update

Elisa passed around copies of a draft scope of work to request services from NRC, which is under contract with Snohomish County to provide forage fish surveying and analysis support to the County. The purpose of the analysis and report is to examine the interrelationships between beach sediment grain size and forage fish egg presence both before and after the Snohomish County Nearshore Restoration Project. The County had been collecting grain size and egg presence/absence data at 13 different sample locations. Surveys were taken once per month from approximately August-February at each site since 2011. The report will analyze this data for each individual site, and give a summary of the general findings of the analysis as a whole. Development of the report will be informed by previous reports and guidance created by the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee and partners. Laura mentioned that she had a few edits to the document. Elisa asked for edits to be given to her by Monday, May 21st. Once the document is complete, it will be sent to the consultant for review and to develop the cost estimate. The goal is to have this analysis complete in October 2018.

Elisa reported to the MRC that there will be a forage fish training with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on June 1st. The training will be held at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. This training will qualify volunteers to perform beach surveys for forage fish eggs as part of the Northwest Straits Initiative Forage Fish Index Site Project.. Elisa asked MRC members who would like to attend to please email her before the end of the week.

Elisa reported that the University of Washington (UW) Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program grant team in partnership with the MRC will be doing sampling in early June. This is a yearly week of field work that the MRC has committed to helping with. SWM staff Elisa Dawson and Luke Hanna will be sampling on June 4, 5, 11, and 12. Traci Sanderson has offered to volunteer for Sunday, June 10th. Elisa shared the schedule for monitoring and asked any MRC members who are interested in volunteering to please email her by May 30th.

UW Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program grant field work schedule:

Day	Sites	Boat or Car?	Rendezvous site/time	MLW (2.8') start/stop <i>good to be on site before MLW if we can</i>	Dead low	Estimated finish time (excluding sieving)
Mon June 4	By foot Howarth (only)	Car	1230, lower Howarth lot?	13:00/17:40	15:30, +0.3'	5 pm?
Tues June 5	Site 6 (DA) only	GHOST SHRIMP Boat	Boat at 10 th street at 1:30PM	14:15/18:00	16:10, +1.1'	6 pm?
Sunday June 10	By foot (Shipwreck and Picnic Point)	Car	Shipwreck property 0630	07:00/11:30	09:05, +.49 ,	~noon
Monday June 11	Sites 2 (ghost shrimp!) and 9 (GW)	#2 by Car, then #9 by boat?	Access site 2 by car, 0645?	07:20/12:20	10:10 -.84'	~1 pm
Tuesday June 12	Deer Creek and Meadowdale	Boat	Edmonds 7:00AM	07:40/ 13:15	10:30 -2.0'	~2 pm

Boeing Grant Opportunity with the Northwest Straits Foundation

The Northwest Straits Foundation is applying for a grant with Boeing and they are interested in projects that could be accomplished in Snohomish County. To that end, the MRC decided to put forth the idea of additional work at Howarth Park to upgrade and replace the culvert and enhance water quality treatment at the park. Anchor QEA completed a scope of work which summarizes tasks, deliverables, and costs to evaluate the feasibility of replacing the culvert for Pigeon Creek #1 under the BNSF railroad at Howarth Park in Everett with a larger box culvert or small span bridge and restoration of the lower creek and adjacent floodplain.

The primary goals for culvert replacement and stream restoration at Pigeon Creek #1 include:

- Restore natural confluence of Pigeon Creek #1 with Puget Sound and restore tidal processes at the mouth of the creek
- Restore natural transition of salt marsh habitat to freshwater marsh and riparian habitat along the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #1
- Provide a pathway for natural sediment transport from the creek to the nearshore
- Improve water quality within the lower reach of Pigeon Creek #1, and subsequently the nearshore area at Howarth Park, through creek restoration, on-site storage, vegetated buffers, and other LID stormwater improvements.

The scope of work is divided into two phases. The first phase includes a feasibility study of both the culvert and creek restoration. Because both the culvert and creek restoration are physically and biologically linked together, it would be difficult to look at feasibility of one without the other. A Phase 2 option includes additional data collection or other work required to reduce risk associated with the constraints that would be identified as part of the Feasibility Study.

Kathleen asked the MRC to review the scope of work. This draft scope of work was passed on to the Northwest Straits Foundation as they continue to work with Boeing on the grant opportunity.

Announcements

- **NWSC Update (Kathleen):** Kathleen will be traveling to Washington DC for the 2018 Puget Sound Day on the Hill, May 22-24th. Kathleen will be attending with the Northwest Straits Commission Staff to represent the Snohomish MRC, the Northwest Straits Initiative in general, and Snohomish County Surface Water Management.
- **LIO (Elisa):** Elisa reported the MRC submitted two Near Term Action (NTAs) to the Puget Sound Partnership on March 29th. NTA 2018-0584 Snohomish Estuary Derelict Vessel Removal was submitted for a project to remove function-limiting derelict vessels from prioritized sites in the Snohomish River estuary to protect and restore critical habitat for salmon population. This NTA builds upon the current derelict vessel removal project in progress with funds received from the 2016 round of NTA funding. NTA 2018-0589 Snohomish Estuary Creosote Piling Removal Planning, Prioritization, and Removal was submitted for a project to remove function-limiting creosote pilings from prioritized sites in the Snohomish River estuary to protect and restore critical habitat for salmon populations. This NTA includes a planning phase and a demonstration project to remove creosote pilings. The NTAs were reviewed by the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization. Both MRC NTAs received a Tier 4 (the highest tier) review. This score accounts for 20% of each NTAs final score. Next, the NTAs will be reviewed by the region. This review will account for 80% of each NTAs final score.

- **Our Toxic Orcas Event June 7 (Kathleen):** Sarah has agreed to speak briefly about the MyCoast app at the June 7 event “Our Toxic Orcas” at Bluewater Distilling in Everett. The event is part of Orca Awareness Month and is being hosted by the Washington Environmental Council and the Ocean Research College Academy.
- **Port Susan Shoreline Outreach (Debbie):** Debbie passed around drafts of a postcard mailer which was developed by Northwest Straits Foundation staff to be sent to Port Susan Shoreline Residents. The mailer encourages shoreline landowners to take part in a free shoreline assessment site visit. Debbie asked for edits to be sent to her, Elisa and Kathleen by May 30th.
- **Derelict Vessels Project (Kathleen):** Kathleen continues to work with Snohomish County Staff to finalize the contract and post derelict boats slated for removal. Staff hope to post boats for removal in early summer. The boats must be posted for 60 days before removal can begin.
- **Kelp Summer 2018 Planning (Tom):** Tom reported that he and Elisa attended a Kelp Webinar hosted by the Northwest Straits Initiative on May 15th. The objectives of the Webinar were to present trends in MRC collected Puget Sound kelp abundance over time, to present the variation in kelp survey data and discuss ways to minimize it in future surveys, and to discuss kelp monitoring plans for 2018. Tom reported that there is great interest in the MRC kelp monitoring data by the NWSC and other state agencies. Nearly all MRCs have participated for at least two years, and some interesting trends are developing. The two major sources of variation in kelp monitoring data are variations in bed size and observer constraints. These constraints can be due to tide height differences at the times of measurement, variable interpretation of diffuse bed boundaries, obscuring of kelp by surface water turbulence, inability to predict the date of maximum bed extent and kayak operator skill level. At least two determinations of bed extent should be made at the same tidal height on the same day and in calm seas. All data should be taken within one hour of a zero tide, but preferably at tides of - 1.0 foot or lower. The date of maximum bed size within the summer growing season appears to vary with location. Areas with greater water mixing and lower temperatures reach maximum bed size somewhat later, in August to September. Conversely, more southerly areas with lower mixing (such as Snohomish Co.) reached maximum size in July to August. Year-over-year declines in kelp bed sizes are possibly correlated with water temperature. Greater declines in bed sizes seem to occur when water is at or above 17°C. There is great interest by GIS specialists to conduct additional and more in-depth spatial analyses as more years of kelp monitoring data become available. Tom is working to select the days for summer 2018 Kelp Monitoring. Tom will follow up with MRC staff, Traci Sanderson, and Lincoln Loehr to plan dates for monitoring.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.